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High-level segment

Statement submitted by RESO-Femmes, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

16-08749 (E) 030616

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Statement

RESO-Femmes specializes in the social and political empowerment of leaders. It contributes to the advancement of female leaders from the South and to reflection on the reforms awaited from the United Nations system. Through its actions and its capacity for reflection on political events and social crises, it assures the long-term future of its programmes and contributes significantly to the building of more peaceful societies and the development of policies that promote women's participation. To that end, it creates innovative programmes and projects designed to give coherence and impetus to grass-roots organizations, promoting their autonomy and their regional and national reach.

At the same time, the organization is working on a research programme to survey the Sustainable Development Goals and provide tools for implementing them worldwide. Working at various levels, it specializes in political training for leaders, but its aim of leaving no member behind is achieved primarily through its work with multigenerational groups and the principle of "train the trainers" (as exemplified by two complementary programmes: "Gender, empowerment and parity" in Mali, and "Water, sanitation and food" in Burkina Faso).

The anthropological method demonstrates that it is possible to manage all the development goals in an inclusive, cross-cutting manner that ensures sustainability. This yields compelling results and effective development, particularly in the training of political leaders who step easily into their roles and who, in turn, train socioeconomic beneficiaries who have been made aware of environmental and climate problems. This approach fosters multidimensional, multidisciplinary coherence and collaboration.

The risks are nonetheless constant. These include internal risks, related to population displacement as a result of war, climate change and the fragile state of democracies in many African countries. In the current context, there are also external risks posed by well-funded evangelical foundations, such as those in Burkina Faso, which are apparently seeking to undermine established women's organizations. This is damaging to diversity of affiliation and to our advancement. It is divisive and affects the security of these organizations.

To prevent this and to guarantee the sustainability of these organizations and local and global security, we have the following suggestions for the high-level segment:

- To include in its work tested, proven anthropological approaches as a key prerequisite for achieving the 2030 goals, particularly those that involve actions at various levels and citizen actors capable of assessing sustainability issues and making relevant qualitative recommendations, in spheres where quantitative and statistical approaches have fallen short;
- To promote State-level legislation based on tested models that reflect each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and include relevant recommendations;
- To encourage the development of public and global policies that are linked to actions and proposals originating from regional leaders and to reforms expected by the public, as well as to their chosen development paths and cultural values.

While implementation takes place at the national level, and poverty reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals are the purview of the international level, the role and the security contribution of "facilitators and mediators" in this process, without interference from external ideologies, are central.

Statement

"Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"

Governments, international organizations, local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and everyone should be globally united to have a world free of poverty, discrimination, inequality, civil deprivation, and educational and environmental problems. In fact, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by countries in the United Nations in 2015, are implementable with cooperation and empathy in all areas.

NGOs have been collaborating extensively with the United Nations to achieve common goals. Therefore, they can have effective roles in fulfilling SDGs. Thus governments should make efforts to remove barricades and bureaucracy in order to strengthen these roles. Non-Governmental Organizations and the United Nations should design and implement joint plans and projects for the realization of the proposed goals. With the centrality of the United Nations, NGOs should arrange consultations and exchange ideas to execute the outcomes with a local performance and from a global perspective.

At Roshd Charity, our viewpoint is that the goals such as eradicating poverty, providing equal opportunity of education for all, supplying food security, having sustainable water management, promoting industrialization, creating jobs and protecting the environment, can be achieved by linking academic knowledge and expertise with volunteerism in deprived areas. Also developing internet and online education will be effective in the implementation process. For instance, expert volunteers can help hold training workshops on solutions for increasing productivity in agriculture and managing water resources in order to grow modified plants to save water resources and increase production per area under cultivation. The methods of empowering local people with a global approach would include vocational trainings for industrialization based on local capacities in order to increase efficiency and sustainable production along with training on the methods of supplying the market with a competitive product.

It is worth mentioning that women's capacities, accounting for a half of human resources in societies, should not be neglected. Enabling women to play roles in the social arena requires educational equality. Women's education should also be enhanced, and efforts should be made to create gender equality and remove discrimination in intellectual and social structures of communities. Therefore, jobs can be created, and the groundwork can be laid for personal growth and the achievement of legal rights.

As a result, it is required to increase the participation of expert NGOs and their volunteers among people in deprived areas for their empowerment and the realization and effectiveness of the above mentioned goals in order to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

Statement

As the primary United Nations representative of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, and most recently the focal point of the Mountain Partnership at Utah Valley University in the Rocky Mountains, I wish to state that no one should be left behind in our SDG planning — especially mountain people. These women, men and children are among the world's poorest and should be at the centre of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The mountain communities in the Rocky Mountains and other mountainous areas emphasize that we must reach the most remote, marginalized communities, especially those at higher elevations. On their behalf we must address poverty and hunger eradication; gender equality; decent work opportunities and economic growth; industry and infrastructure; and sustainable communities.

Because 39 percent of mountain dwellers in developing countries are vulnerable to food insecurity, the efforts toward Zero Hunger, good health and well-being, as well as quality education must be focused on people in these regions. Mountain areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, as we know from our own experiences in Utah and the Rocky Mountains. The mountains should be a global priority given the multitude of resources they provide.

My colleagues in Utah and I, including many dedicated students, were able to contribute to the campaign of the Mountain Partnership to include mountain targets among the SDGs during 2013-2015 and we are grateful to the United Nations for including three mountain targets among those SDGs.

Now, efforts must be made to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals in the mountains, not just the three targets that specifically mention them in Goals 6 and 15.

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Statement submitted by Sadguru Sadafaldeo Vihangam Yoga Sansthan, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Statement

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's): Monitoring the New Urban Agenda

United Nations SDGs Challenges

The Post 2015 Development Agenda has brought out the New Urban Agenda. The critical operational toolkit of the New Urban Agenda is the set of indicators to assess progress of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015. The challenge is to measure and assess progress in the SDGs towards meeting the needs of people in both developed and developing countries.

For the first time, the United Nations has shifted its focus from countries and cities to sub-cities and specific target groups among them, such as relating to gender, age, and informal settlements, among others. Another innovative feature of this initiative is that the performance results have to go beyond comparative performance ranking to actually transferring the results to operations in areas of say, city planning, budgeting and programme management. This brings into focus major challenges of understanding, developing and analysing sub-city database, assessing whether such data are being generated and whether cities have the capacities to generate the data, analyse them and transfer the sub-city level performance results to city operations.

Available evidences on the database at the city level across countries are not encouraging. Sub-city data are normally not developed in both developed and developing countries. Nor does capacity appear to exist at the city level to generate such data at different levels of disaggregation, as indicated in the New Urban Agenda.

Proposal to develop New Urban Agenda Toolkit for SDGs

The development of a New Urban Agenda toolkit to assess progress of the SDGs will require the following major research tasks:

1. Assess the sub-city database in sample cities. Are the data being periodically or regularly generated and maintained and if so, the quality and reliability of the data and the extent to which the sub-city data are being analysed and transferred to city operations.

2. Develop a set of output and outcome indicators to assess progress of each of the 17 SDGs, as sustainability cannot be assessed only by output indicators

3. If the sub-city data are not being developed or the quality is not of the required level for the proposed set of SDG output and outcome indicators, assess capacity within the city government to develop these data.

4. If the capacity is not available, develop a capacity building module. This will have three components:

   a. Sub-city data development and validation techniques

   b. Sub-city level analytical techniques

   c. Performance Results Transfer to Practice Techniques

5. Develop the set of SDG output and outcome indicators at City, Sub city level by wards disaggregated for gender, age, income groups and many other housing related variables

6. A regional level Training of Trainers programme for 20 trainers from Asian and African cities in the first instance, which will use the training modules to organize similar training programmes within their regions.

7. Provide technical support to the regional trainers, as required

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Statement

Nigeria and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Walking the Talk

Introduction

After 17 years of democratic rule, the culture of participatory governance and selfless service delivery remain elusive in Nigeria. An assessment of the MDGs revealed that many countries, including Nigeria, are moving forward, showing that setting concrete and collective goals yield results. Lack of accountability, weak political will, poor citizens' buy-in and participation, created shortfalls. Thus, citizens must be empowered to focus squarely on scaling up proven interventions to achieve the SDGs.

The Way Forward

The challenge hinges on how to build on the successes of the past while refocusing attention upon issues that aim to improve the chances of achieving the SDGs, if genuinely and properly implemented. It is necessary to concentrate upon the following areas:

- Upscaling innovative partnerships involving the private sector
- Mitigating systemic corruption by reinforcing the government-citizen compact
- Enhancing the continuity, quality, speed and efficiency of deliverables
- Institutionalizing citizen-driven monitoring and evaluation of projects

Action Plan

Sustainable development can no longer be left to governments alone. Non-state actors and NGOs have a critical role to play in determining the success of the SDGs by redirecting and reinforcing the overall trajectory of national development. In Nigeria, political leaders during electoral campaigns, make promises while paying lip-service to and sometimes lying about critical development achievements. Those in the non-profit sector should restrategize by putting in place interventions aimed at holding service providers to account. This should aim at ensuring the attainment of the SDGs by implementing the following action plan designed to walk the talk:

- Sensitizing, Mobilizing and Educating the Public: Ensuring that no one is ignorant of the goals through public enlightenment initiatives. Focusing attention upon government's strategies directed at achieving them, will serve to increase buy-in, ownership and commitment by all.
- Advocacy: A key role of NGOs remains public enlightenment. SDGs-related campaigns through public fora and research will make service providers become conscientious.
- Empowering Ordinary People: The five critical areas of the SDGs — people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership are central to the concerns and mission of most NGOs. Increased activities by NGOs in vocational skills development efforts, will foster poverty alleviation and promote the common good.

- Watchdogs for the SGDs: NGOs relate with citizens. They can design activities to improve the SDGs and put in place accountability mechanisms such as citizens' report cards on the quality of public services, thereby holding governments to account.

- Data Collection and Monitoring: NGOs possess the skills, empathy and credibility to objectively provide authentic feedback regarding project outcomes. Collecting data, monitoring performance by simply asking people to share their experiences of development-related issues will help achieve the SDGs.

Conclusion

Walking the SDGs talk demands an effective and efficient implementation of the above action plan. A mindset change and commitment to a paradigm shift through citizens' participation in governance, will enhance the actualization of Nigeria's development agenda.

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Statement submitted by Service and Research Institute on Family and Children, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Statement

Theme: Implementing the post 2015 development agenda-moving from commitments to results.

Present day global crisis is manifest in increasing dehumanizing poverty, growing social and economic disparity, global networks of terrorism, continual wars in many parts of the globe, trafficking of women and children, drug cartels, weapons of mass destruction, all of which can be summed up as a breakdown of all social and human safety nets, resulting in increased social and cultural confusion leading to violence and collapse of civilization.

In this crisis the need is to understand: 1. What development means and how it relates to the human person; 2. The need to demystify the term 'development' with determined articulation to identify, name, take collective ownership and address present global crisis; 3. Development cannot be equated or achieved only in economic terms; 4. It must have at its core the wellbeing of the human person in their familial and social contexts; and 5. Address all issues simultaneously as vital resources for development.

This commitment calls for: 1. strengthening social development policies and action; 2. providing fresh thinking which is effective, long-term and lasting; 3. preserving social and human values; and 4. transmitting culture by educating, training, motivating and investing in the future.

An example:

Families are units of production, creating employment and income. As consumption units families have a direct bearing on sustainability and therefore strengthening development in contemporary society lies in the reality of investing greater appreciation of the role of the family as a social unit in sustainable development.

This thinking is embodied in 'Family Centered' practice which is an innovative approach based on a radical set of principles, values and beliefs, which recognizes the critical role of the family as the common vehicle in development. This 'strengths-based, culturally responsive, educationally enlightened approach' which utilizes family strengths, builds on family's resources, while employing an empowerment paradigm is built on collaborative partnerships within families.

Results:

This approach was developed and used during the last thirty years by engaging women in a skills training project which combines training with lessons on family education, economic and social awareness, gender issues, social skills, literacy and language, thereby enabling women to transform their lives and that of their families. Based on this experience Service and Research Institute on Family and Children coined the phrase 'Family — Missing link in Development'.

Recommendations:

1. Service and Research Institute on Family and Children's humble plea to the United Nations in implementing its post 2015 development agenda: develop a Charter of Family Rights and endeavour to promote it among all Nation States.

2. Understanding the reality and implications of 'human development and sustainability' is of utmost importance as it will lead to strengthening and sustaining social development and social protection.